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EAST INDIA OBSERVER EXTRAORDINARY.

CONTAINING AN

ADDRESSES TO THE

AUTHOR of a LETTER to

HENRY VANSITTART, Esq;

IN THE

East India Observer, Number VI.

HOWSOEVER, Sir, you may think yourself entitled to the appellation of a "friend to the Company," which you are pleased to assume, yet I will take upon me to say, you are no friend to decency or truth; otherwise you would not, by the most atrocious assertions, and false conclusions, endeavour to asperse the character of a gentleman, who hath studiously avoided concerning himself with any individual thing relative to general courts, or elections in Leadenhall Street.

Mr. Holwell would stand justified in the opinion of all upright and candid judges, were he to treat with contempt and silence every ba-

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attack of an assassin who assaults him in the dark; or of him who dares not put his name to what he dares to write against him. But as the most unblemished character may receive a stain from dirt repeatedly thrown at it, how vulgar soever the hand that throws it; and although Mr. Holwell, conscious of his own integrity, has hitherto looked down with a thorough disdain upon the malicious attempts made upon him (all probably from the same quarter) yet he is at length induced to take up his pen in his own vindication, lest the public, by these reiterated attacks upon his character, should receive impressions injurious thereto.

It is proper then to declare, by way of preface, that Mr. Holwell is an entire stranger to the provocation which seems to have occasioned the letter addressed to Mr. Vansittart, by this "friend to the Company"; he having never seen or heard of the Pamphlet, which Anonymous says, "had raised Mr. Vansittart's indignation," nor this gentleman's production alluded to in page the 35th of the Observer. Whatever may have been the cause that excited this wretched second-hand attack upon Mr. Vansittart, and the revolution in Bengal of 1760; it appears to be levelled with so much ignorance and malevolence together, against that gentleman, as must render every mean purpose it was calculated to serve, ineffectual and abortive. The many weak and insignificant arguments that have from time to time been advanced to refute the necessity of that revolution, brings to our remembrance a saying of ALI VERDI KHAN's: "These impudent fellows (speaking of the MAHAHRATTORS) are beat and beat, and yet they come again." It does not strictly lie upon Mr. Holwell to vindicate a measure in which he had no share, either in the advising or execution; to wit, the deposing of MHIR JAFFIER. The treaty with COSSIM ALI KHAN, to which he put his hand, stipulated nothing greater in his favour, than his appointment to the Niab-Subahship, and to the succession at the demise of his father-in-law. It is therefore only necessary for him to vindicate himself from the calumnies heaped upon him, by this "enemy to truth," in his recent address to Mr. Vansittart.

FIRST, he asserts, that "the letters published by Mr. Holwell, evidently shew, that his design, from the first moment of his government, was at all events to effectuate a revolution." This assertion is so audaciously false, that one would think but a knowledge of Mr. Holwell's being at a considerable distance from the place where it was broached, and a supposition, that the Observer would not spread much further than the precincts of Grub-Street, could have prompted him to utter so flagrant an untruth: for those very letters most evidently shew, that Mr. Holwell gave every support to MHIR JAFFIER's government and cause against the SHAW ZAPPA throughout

throughout the whole course of the long campaign, that immediately succeeded Colonel CLIVE's departure. Those letters also prove, that Mr. Holwell never meditated any revolution at all, until indispensably moved to it by the repeated acts of treachery and cowardice of MHIR JAFFIER and his son MHIRAN, and the distressed situation of the Company's affairs, brought nearly to perdition in support of a family, with whom nothing but a still greater necessity in the year 1757, could justify the holding any sort of connexion—a family which had, to raise itself to the Soubahdarry, broke through every tie of gratitude and loyalty—had betrayed their trust, and sacrificed their master at the battle of PLASSEY; a master who had confirmed MHIR JAFFIER in the highest posts to which he had been raised by his grandfather ALIVERDI, from the low station of a subaltern JEM-MAUTDAAR! Such was the detestable character of the man, whom the cruel necessity of our affairs raised to the Soubahship of Bengall! And such was the wretch who has acquired the highest eulogiums from hireling scriblers, and the shameful prostitution of truth to party rage! Bad as the man was, yet Mr. Holwell withheld not from him that support which he claimed by the faith of treaties, until ruin to the Company appeared inevitable. At this period it was, and not before, that Mr. Holwell projected a revolution in favour of the Company, by treaty with the SHAW ZADDA—a revolution which LORD CLIVE has happily in part accomplished to the debasement of this very family.

THE second charge brought against Mr. Holwell is, "That his Memorial, delivered to the Committee for Mr. Vansittart's instruction, does not contain a candid representation of any one transaction therein mentioned." In order to refute this calumny, let it only be remembered, that Mr. Holwell's Memorial lay not only before the Committee, but before the Council, some of whom became the strongest partisans of MHIR JAFFIER two years afterwards; and further, were not very well inclined to Mr. Holwell: therefore, if any part of his Memorial had been liable to impeachment, it could not have escaped censure, on the instant, as tending evidently to mislead Mr. Vansittart: an effect which it behoved every member of the Committee and Council to guard him against—indeed it was strictly their duty so to do. Mr. Holwell's Memorial, on the contrary, had the sanction of the Committee, (who were best acquainted with the subject matter of it) as a genuine representation of the state of things at, and before Mr. Vansittart's arrival. This gentleman's understanding and penetration is unquestionable; can it then be imagined he would adopt any representations in Mr. Holwell's Memorial, without satisfying himself of the truth of them? Mr. Holwell's enemies will allow him endued with a common share of sense, therefore can it possibly gain credit, that he would misrepresent transactions, or falsify facts, which

which on the instant were subject to detection, when the doing it could have no other consequence than that of bringing shame upon himself? The assassinations charged on MHIR JAFFIER were facts notoriously known. They had a place in the Memorial, as being necessary to point out to Mr. Vansittart the disposition of MHIR JAFFIER towards his friends and allies, the English; most of the persons assassinated being officers avowedly attached to us, and our interest, which alone constituted their crime. The assertion of the "Friend to the Company," That the persons in Mr. Holwell's list are now alive, he must know (supposing him to know any single tittle of what he is writing about) is utterly void of truth. Even the gentlemen of the Committee, in their letter to the Court of Directors, which he quotes, do not attempt to deny the reality of the assassinations charged upon MHIR JAFFIER, but endeavour to extenuate and soften them, as being natural and consistent with Eastern politics, and to balance them, by ascribing the same outrages to COSSIM. Another allegation against Mr. Holwell's Memorial is, "That he must have been much at a loss for argument, when he went so far back as the Dutch affair to rake for scandal, &c." The indecency of phrase adopted by this concealed scribbler merits a *coup de baton* much more than a reply. However, to expose the profound ignorance of this incendiary, we will shew, that Mr. Holwell had not very far to rake for this retrospect. His Memorial was drawn up and delivered into Council in August 1760, and the Dutch affair fell out at the close of the year 1759;—and if this charge against MHIR JAFFIER warrants, in any degree, the rude term of "raking for scandal," it is as justly applicable to Colonel CLIVE, and the whole Council of FORT-WILLIAM, as to Mr. Holwell; for they all signed to this charge in the Memorial of the Dutch affair transmitted to the Court of Directors.

THE last, and seemingly most important charge, is relative to a letter of his, now in the possession of the Court of Directors; from which an occasion is taken to blacken the genuine and original motives of Mr. Vansittart's revolution, although, in fact, it has not the smallest allusion thereto. Here Mr. Holwell gives his compliments of thanks to this slanderer, for affording him an opportunity he has long wished for, of setting the transaction which gave rise to the above-mentioned letter in a clear light; the rather, as several puny geniuses (and amongst them ONE of no small notoriety for insignificance) have from time to time thrown out insinuations *in terrorem* against this transaction, ridiculously depending upon Mr. Holwell's obligation to silence; but the "Friend to the Company" speaks out plainly, although injuriously.—Mr. Holwell once more thanks him.

5

AND now for the unravelling of this mysterious transaction.

THE first treaty with COSSIM ALI KHAN was signed on the evening of the 27th of September 1760.—Mr. Holwell resigned the chair and Company's service in Council the 29th. In the forenoon of the succeeding day, he received a letter from COSSIM ALI KHAN, by the hands of his principal secretary, to the following purport:—"I shall feel the loss of your presence—but God disposeth all things as He pleaseth; we must submit.—I am sensible of the injustice done you by the Company, that obligeth you to quit the service.—God send you safe to your native land, and return you soon for the good of this country.—My breast is warmed by the remembrance of the many signal services you have rendered, not only to me, but to his Excellency the NABOB; and, as a mark of my love and friendship, I desire your acceptance of the enclosed." The enclosed was his obligation for two lac of rupees, bearing date the first of October 1760. Fifty thousand of the two lac Mr. Holwell received before his departure from Bengal, and he left the obligation in the hands of a friend, to empower him to receive the remainder; but various incidents intervening, that fully employed that friend's time and attention, and almost three years having elapsed after Mr. Holwell's arrival in England, without his receiving any particulars of the matter, he thought it necessary to empower Mr. John Wollaston to make enquiry concerning the issue of the obligation. "Secrecy" was recommended; for although Mr. Holwell had no cause to blush at the transaction, yet there was no sort of occasion to make it more public than the nature of the thing required. "Address" also was requisite, because Mr. Holwell was fearful of offending his friend and benefactor. Mr. Wollaston being dead before the arrival of Mr. Holwell's letter, it fell into the hands of his sister, Mrs. Amyatt. She was herself incapable of acting in such an affair, and thought she might entrust the execution of it to another. By what means the Court of Directors came into possession of the letter, Mr. Holwell cares not; let those take shame to themselves on the occasion, who have cause to do so. He congratulates the Court of Directors on this MIGHTY ACQUISITION, and leaves them at full liberty to make what further use of it they shall think proper. Mr. Holwell thought himself so little subject to censure in the whole of the above transaction, that, without the least reserve, he communicated every circumstance of it to Mr. Boulton, a few days after his election to the Chair, and he calls upon that gentleman to justify him in this particular.

MR. HOLWELL having thus minutely and faithfully stated this whole affair, and refuted the other charges levelled at his character by this slanderer,

12

slanderer, he freely submits the whole decision to the public, assuring them he will give them no further trouble on the subject, unless called upon by persons of honour and veracity, and who will not blush to affix their name to their productions.

J. Z. HOLWELL.

Facombe, Hants,

Dec. 28, 1766.

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Mr. Holwell having this morning given an account of the whole matter, and related the other charges levelled at his character by this slanderer.

